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these 118 descriptions are introduced, word for word, into this Flora, which forms more than one third of the volume, and they are placed there, whether or not Louisiana affords an example. That we may not be accused of exaggeration, in 11 of these families, viz. *The Musa, Plumbaginur, Gallifera, Melia, Menispermata, Rutaca, Semperviva, Sexifraga Casti, Ficoida Melastome*, the author gives no description whatever of the family, and he concludes by telling us, that he found none of them in Louisiana. What is singular is, that at the conclusion of the description of the family of *Malpighia*, he assures us that some plants appeared to him to be of this family, of which he had not seen the flowers; but every botanist knows, that the form of the *Malpighia* is not exclusive in this family.

This defect is not the only one. If the small number of plants of which he speaks could be recognized, we ought to feel obliged to him, but this does not happen often, and his descriptions prove that he has not examined with care—for example, he describes clearly a species of *Nelumbo*, when he describes his new genus of *Napoleone*, a *doliches* in that of *Josephine*—a cro-

ton in his *Atakapaca*, which he places in the family of *orties*, notwithstanding what he says places it necessarily in that of the *Euphorbes*.

We might give many examples of this kind, but we are inclined to believe, that it is not the knowledge of plants of this fine country, so rich in vegetables, that he would present in his Flora, but merely to show his anxious desire that some skilful botanist would undertake this task. The manner in which he expresses himself, in many passages, persuades us, that such was his laudable design, for otherwise how can we suppose, that a man of sense, after having occupied a page with the genus *muco* can finish by telling us, that Louisiana must be very rich in species of this genus, without mentioning a single one; and he gets rid of two families of *Alge* and *Hepatyques* by assuring us that they offer a great fecundity and variety in their species, without saying a word of any. The same negligence is displayed in so many parts of this work, that we believe the object of the author was what we have supposed, and we must acknowledge, that he has perfectly succeeded.

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#### DETACHED ANECDOTES.

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A MODERN JONAS.

MR. B....., lately an inhabitant of a neighbouring town, accompanied by four men, as assistants in the management of his boat, set sail one day to fish. During the voyage, the boat turning suddenly, remained fixed in a position, contrary to her former course. In vain did her crew urge her to a change—in whatever direction they forced her, in a short time she constantly

resumed the old station. In this dilemma, they concluded that nothing but prayers could avail, to prayers they all went. Conscience struck, perhaps, for some misdeed—one of the crew was seen to address himself with more than common fervency; and as superstition is ever ready to adopt a cruel expedient, when seeking relief from either real or imaginary woes, it was immediately concluded, that this man's

sins was the cause of this miraculous tendency of the boat: his companions therefore came to the resolution of throwing him overboard. This modern Jonas not yet convinced that he was a prophet, and that a supernatural interposition of Providence would save him from immediate death, struggled hard—superior strength however prevailing, the intended sacrifice was nearly accomplished, when the poor wretch, as his last resource, his last hope, of safety, caught hold of a rope at the boat's side—a rope which was at once recognized as the cause of all their fright, and which in an instant calmed their perturbed spirits, and saved the affrighted victim from a watery death. It now appeared, that the grapnell, unobserved by any one, had unfortunately fallen overboard, and that when the boat had run to the length of the rope, the grapnell holding fast, she immediately, obeying the superior power, rode head to the wind.

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## MAP OF FRANCE.

The scheme of a general map of France from actual surveys, originated entirely with the late Cassini de Thury, who superintended its execution during forty years. At his death, in 1784, the whole was finished except Brittany. On his son, the present M. Cassini, devolved the task of completing it; and nothing remained to be done but the engraving of three plates, when the national convention, by its decree of the 21st of September, 1793, thought proper to rob those at whose expense it had been executed, of their property, and to deprive Cassini of the superintendence of his own work. The pressing remonstrances of the parties injured, at length procured an indemnification to be assigned them; but this remained several years unpaid. "Had it not been for the

kindness of the first consul," says M. Cassini, "and the justice of the council of state, the whole would have been lost. They issued an order for our being paid the indemnification long before settled."

## BROTHER COLLEAGUE.

"The title of brother, *confrère*, I know," says Cassini, "is no longer in fashion. It is the practice at present to substitute that of colleague for it. For my part, however, regarding less the propriety of the word than the sentiment it expresses, I continue to give the appellation of brethren to all the learned, and in particular to the members of the old Royal Academy of Sciences." The feelings of those who do not think on this point with Cassini, are not to be envied.

## MAN.

We laugh at man in Labruyère; we despise him in Pascal; we hate him in La Rochefoucauld.

## IDLENESS.

Life is lost by the idle man; it is spent by the industrious.

On the tomb of an idle man was written the following epitaph:

"Here Damis lies, for whom no day e'er dawn'd."

## ATHEISM.

When we consider the number of great men, who have paid homage to the Deity, might not the atheist exclaim as Diocles did, when he saw Epicurus in a temple: "My doubts are removed—Epicurus on his knees proves the greatness of Jove."

## EARLY DATED BOOK.

The Psalter of 1457 has hitherto been considered as the earliest book printed with a date: and it deserves this distinction, if we understand by date not only the year, but the place where printed, and the name of the printers. Professor Fischer,

now at Moscow, found at Mentz an almanac for the year 1457, which may be said in some sort to be of earlier date. But Baron Von Aretin, principal librarian to the king of Bavaria, has found one still more ancient, as it bears the date of 1455. It is in the German language, and entitled a Warning to Christendom against the Turks. This book, which is in the Royal Library at Munich, has been amply described by the Baron in his Universal Literary Indicator, published at Munich in 1807; and he has annexed a facsimile of it, printed from stone, to his Academical Discourse on the first Effects of Printing, published in 1808, in 4to. The invention of the art of printing has at length been completed by stereotype and lithography, thus ending, where it began, with the tabular method.

#### PROHIBITED BOOKS.

The censorship of books had not long been established, before it was followed by a catalogue of books prohibited altogether, or to be corrected. Zeal against pretended heterodoxy went so far, as to prohibit books that never existed, and condemn persons as authors who had never written a single line, but whose sentiments were suspected. Thus all the works of Knipperdolling, a famous freebooter, who could not write his own name, were prohibited: for we can scarcely suspect the censurer of punning on the word *works*. Romulus Paradisus too was enjoined never to make use of his own name, that he might not be guilty of a profanation of Paradise. Accordingly he was called *Romulus trium punctorum*.

#### NATIONAL PARTIALITY.

The celebrated French antiquary, M. Millin, member of the French Institute, of the Legion of Honour, and of most of the literary societies

in Europe, having inserted in the *Magasin Encyclopedique*, of which he is the editor, a translation of Strutt's *Manners and Customs of the English*, has the following temperate note on a passage, in which Mr. Strutt boasts, that no nation can show such a numerous series of heroes as the English:—"It cannot be disputed, that the English had warriors distinguished for their shining valour, and noble courage; but the patriotism of Mr. Strutt misleads him, when he says, that in this respect no other nation can be compared to it. Though John was unsuccessful against Edward and the valiant Black Prince, he was as brave, as he was full of honour and probity. Froissard, whom Mr. Strutt quotes with reason as an authority, after having reported the short and noble harangue of the Black Prince, says of him:—"and the good king John, for his part, was a very brave knight, and if a fourth part of his people had resembled him, the day would have been theirs." In those long and cruel wars, victory exhibited her caprice; but both in the French and in the English armies there were warriors, whose names history delights to retrace. See that of the rivalry between France and England, by M. Gaillard."

#### LALANDE.

I am passionately fond of the sea, (says Lalande, in his memoirs); I have had a ship engraved on my seal; with the moon, which serves to guide it; and a Greek motto, the signification of which is science guided by virtue: for in nothing is science more necessary than in navigation, and virtue conducts the philosopher through the waves and storms of life.

#### SMALL-POX.

I have just been reading an affect-

ing little epistle, in Latin verse, by M. Van Braam, entitled, the Instability of Human Happiness. It records—a man and his wife, who had lived together ten years, happy in each other's affections, and in the education of an only son. They were all seized at the same time with the small-pox. The disease assumed a malignant aspect. At length it attained its height; and in the morning the son died—at noon, the wife—and at night, he who the day before was a beloved and loving husband, and affectionate father.

#### ANCIENT RECORDS.

Many facts transmitted to us in verse, are not on this account the less authentic. It may be said per-

haps that we are not to expect historic accuracy in poets: and it must be confessed, that we find in them marvellous tales, exaggerations, and a mixture of truth and falsehood, which are ascribable to the ignorance and bad taste of the times. But almost as much may be objected to the contemporary chronicles in prose; yet this is not a sufficient reason for rejecting indiscriminately the facts recorded in them, when we may presume they are true at the bottom, and only require to be stripped of certain accompaniments that savour of the fabulous, and of every thing that appears hyperbolical and improbable, to reduce them to their original simplicity.

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## ORIGINAL POETRY.

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### WOMAN.

FROM THE WORKS OF JAMES STUART,  
(JUST PUBLISHED).

WHEN half creation's works were done,  
Just formed the stars, the glowing sun,  
And softly blushing skies;  
And wide across earth's dewy lawn  
Gleamed the first glances of the dawn,  
And flowers began to rise:

Clad in her robe of tender green,  
Nature delighted viewed the scene,  
Pleased with each novel form;  
And from each sweetly-op'ning flower,  
From hill and vale and shady bower,  
She culled some lovely charm.

Soft o'er the lily's glowing white,  
Tinged with the trembling ray of light,  
She shed the rose's flush;  
Just as the first-born morning gale,  
Light-breathing o'er the spicy vale,  
Deepened its virgin blush.

She drew the diamond from the mine,  
And lustre from the stars that shine  
Amid the cloudless sky;

And purest pearls, obscurely spread,  
In ocean's dark and gloomy bed,  
Remote from mortal eye.

She took the balmy vi'let's blue,  
The sweet carnation's mellow hue,  
Rich with the tear of night;  
Though the young beam of rising day  
Had melted half that tear away,  
In the first stream of light.

And now in elegance arrayed,  
Her last, her fairest work she made,  
Almost a seraph's frame:  
To animate this form was given  
A gentle spirit sent from heaven,  
And WOMAN was her name.

Then on her softly-smiling face  
She lavished every winning grace,  
And every charm was there;  
Upon her eye, the vi'let's blue,  
Upon her cheek, the rose's hue,  
The lily every where.

Yes, on that eye was seen to play  
The lustre of the stellar ray,  
The diamond's humid glow;